

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

SECRET/SENSITIVE

December 16, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

Attached is an assessment of the current situation in Poland from my perspective. Enclosed also is a draft opening statement to be used at your press conference on Thursday. The statement has been carefully drafted to be in line with the analysis and strikes a somewhat more vigorous stance on internal repression in Poland than heretofore. I believe it is both timely and in order that you focus more vigorously on the repression which we now have ample evidence is underway.

I recommend that after you give this opening statement you make the point to the press that you now wish to turn to other subjects and not take further questions on Poland so as to insure that the statement in its entirety stands on its own two feet and that you not risk the dangers of additional elaborations and give and take. This tactic will underline the seriousness that you attach to the statement and will tend to insure its broader coverage in subsequent reporting.

Encl

SECRET/SENSITIVE

State Dept. review completed